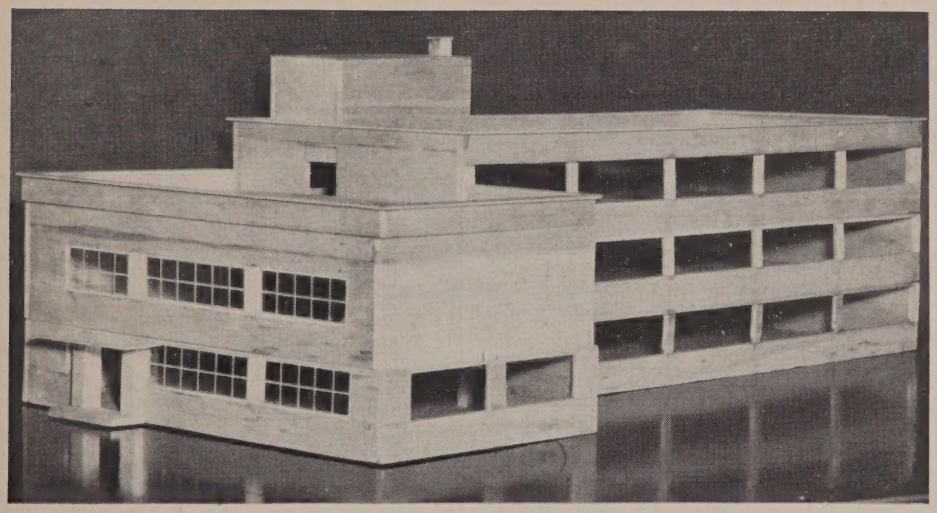
The Pulse

NEWS of the NEW ENGLAND DEACONESS HOSPITAL EMPLOYEES

Volume 5, No. 4 April 1950

New Cancer Research Institute



CANCER RESEARCH INSTITUTE ANNOUNCED

Last week the long-awaited announcement was made of the commencement of the Deaconess' Cancer Research Institute. With the formation of the Institute, Boston will claim another "first" in its history of leadership in the medical field. The building will be the first in New England to be devoted *exclusively* to the study of cancer and cancer detection work.

In making the announcement, Dr. Shields Warren said it is hoped that the half-million dollar structure will make a vital contribution to the world-wide battle against cancer.

The new research building will be unique in this area, Dr. Warren said, in that it will not be a hospital building in the strict sense of the word, except for the service of the out-patient cancer clinic, which is being conducted at present in the Palmer Memorial. This service will probably be expanded. The clinic's primary use is to assist the private practitioner in the diagnosis of cancer and to develop and test the value of various types of examinations that the general practitioner may make in his own office. It is so essential to obtain an early diagnosis of cancer that anything we can do to facilitate this work is considered of paramount importance. The benefits of cancer research, Dr. Warren added, will thus be carried into the day-to-day field of medical practice with a resultant reduction in the present mortality rate.

Construction of the new building has been made possible through a grant by the U. S. Public Health Service amounting to $485,000, together with other contributions toward the war against cancer.

The building itself (see cut) will be three stories high, 138 feet long with a 66 foot front on Pilgrim Road between Harris Hall and the Channing Home. Besides the extensive laboratory and clinic facilities, there will be an auditorium for the use of members of the medical staffs. All of us recognize that this is, indeed, an item the hospital has needed for many years. It will make it possible for our doctors to demonstrate their specialized knowledge to an even larger number of visiting doctors and Fellows than has been possible in the past.

RED CROSS DRIVE

The results of the 1950 drive for the Red Cross are now in and, according to Miss Ramsdell who kept the accounts, the personnel of the hospital responded generously. A total of $506.35 was collected and has been turned over to the Greater Boston Headquarters of the 1950 Red Cross fund. The help by Department Heads was greatly appreciated and we can all feel gratified over the results.

REVEREND SAMUELSON

In January the post of Chaplain at the hospital, which had been vacant for many months, was filled by the arrival of Reverend Rudolph L. Samuelson. For eleven years Reverend Samuelson was the pastor of the South Street Methodist Church in Brockton and prior to that he served a student charge in West Falmouth for six years while attending Boston University. Reverend Samuelson was graduated from the Boston University School of Theology with a Masters Degree and also a Bachelor's Degree in Sacred Theology.

Before coming to Boston, Mr. Samuelson served as Protestant Chaplain of the Juvenile Court in Brockton for a number of years. He was also the Chairman of the Brockton Cancer Educational Committee, served as President of the Brockton Ministerial Association, and also as first President of the Brockton Council of Churches.

Reverend Samuelson is married to the former Harriett M. Hoerman of Washington, Kansas.

Too few of us are aware of the great service the chaplain can render to our patients and yet each day, beyond his scheduled calls, the chaplain is sought by many. The service of the chaplain is by no means limited to ministering to the sick. Many patients are eager to discuss personal problems — even their financial troubles — and the chaplain is regarded as a confidential counsellor. Often, the chaplain can pave the way for the patients to take up these problems with the Social Service Department or the Credit Office.

We are fortunate, indeed, to have Reverend Samuelson as our new chaplain, for he has a background of wide experience in dealing with the spiritual and emotional problems arising in the daily lives of many of us. Particularly with the sick, these problems often assume outsized proportions and the counsel of a trained humanitarian can do much to allay fear and worry, thus hastening recovery from illness or surgery.

The Pulse

APRIL, 1950

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of the
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Under Supervision of the
PUBLIC RELATIONS DEPARTMENT

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THE INSIDE STORY OF THE PULSE

Herewith, the second issue of THE PULSE with the "new look" and under new regime.

It occurred to us that it would be of interest to you to know just what is involved in getting out THE PULSE. The responsibility is vested chiefly in the newly created Editorial Staff. Mrs. Haley supervises the gathering and editing of the main news stories, the editorials and "Department of the Month." Miss Sellman has charge of all other news and announcements except those of the Nursing Departments. Our newest appointee, Miss Pond, in addition to illustrating, helps Miss Logan and Miss Howland in gathering news of the Nursing Departments. Finally, on the business and circulation, we have Mr. Robinson. Our reporters are responsible for presenting departmental notes of interest and they also help on special assignments. The whole job is done with only three meetings a month and it's always a race to beat that deadline!

We are very eager to have more employees contributing to THE PULSE. If you are not a reporter, that doesn't mean we won't handle your "copy" — we'd love to have it! Why not come to one of our working sessions sometime? Ask any of us "when and where." And please let us know how we are doing. All comments, both pro and con, are earnestly solicited.

Department of the Month

RADIATION PHYSICS

Do you realize that in our hospital much experimental work is done with radioactive materials akin to the uranium of the atomic bomb?

In one small room on second floor Baker are a number of instruments for measuring radioactivity — one of them a Geiger counter. Russell Cowing, whose original job here was maintenance of the radon plant in Palmer basement where the largest single amount of radium in New England is stored, is in charge of these instruments. Some are used to measure the radon delivered from the radium in our plant. Others were required when experimentation was done on radioactive phosphorus and the careful follow-up of leukemic patients whom Dr. Shields Warren treated with radioactive phosphorus. Now, most of this work is in cancer research and treatment, and in the study of conditions hazardous to persons working with radioactive isotopes, x-ray and radium. Mr. Cowing is well fitted for this job; he was one of the civilian workers chosen to go to Bikini for the atom-bomb tests.

Mr. Cowing and Charles Spalding maintain our radon plant and repair much of our hospital x-ray equipment. They also calibrate x-ray machinery and survey rooms for escaping radiation which would seriously affect x-ray personnel if allowed to go without correction. They find radioactive materials when lost. Some years ago a container of radium was lost in a hospital near Boston. Mr. Cowing was one of the men who recovered that radium from a dump where ashes from an incinerator had been disposed.

Egilda DeAmicis carries out various research projects relating to handling radioactive material and detection and measuring this in many different forms.

In a workshop in Baker basement Howard Blinn and Herbert Bradley make ingenious repairs on broken or worn equipment for X-ray and Pathology, saving the hospital many dollars. They also design and build special pieces of equipment to be used in research projects or to adapt our x-ray machines to new or better techniques.

Recently, Mr. Cowing and Mr. Spalding have been devoting much time to the plans for our new buildings, correcting and adding details to assure that the finished buildings will be well adapted for the type of work to be done.

Taken altogether, this is one of the busiest and cleverest crews at work in our hospital. Their publications have brought them to the attention of people outside of the hospital. We feel it is only fitting that those of us within the hospital realize the importance and diversity of their work.

GRUMBLING

We all grumble now and then; we wouldn't be human if we didn't. With some of us it is chronic and does not really mean much — we grumble most of the time and about everything. With others, it may be a rare complaint, but a thoroughly justifiable one. The important thing is that if we merely grumble to our pals, it doesn't do much toward correcting the situation and only causes discontent and unrest. Why not grumble to the right people — the head of your department, the Personnel Director or your Labor Relations representative? The results may be surprising. Certainly if a complaint is justified, an effort will be made to correct whatever situations can possibly be amended. Get it off your chest — to people who may be able to do something about it!

LETTERS TO THE PULSE

Letter to the Editors:

Best wishes to the Editorial Staff in publishing the new edition of THE PULSE.

Our paper has improved since the first edition appeared in October, 1946 — without a name, which was later contributed by one of our employees. Then it was a small, four-page edition on paper only a little better quality than newsprint. Better grades of paper, an expanded six-page edition, and the introduction of pictures and cartoons are some of the changes which have gradually contributed to its growth.

The new format and the many new interesting features show a continuation of this progress. I am sure that all will continue to look forward to receiving THE PULSE and I wish you every success in compiling it.

ELLEN ADAMS

* * *

IMPORTANT NOTICE

All hospital employees and doctors who intend, at any time, to use the Deaconess parking lot are requested to supply the Personnel Department with the license plate number of their cars and Deaconess stickers may then be obtained from the Personnel Department.

If any car in the lot does not have a Deaconess sticker, the owner will be liable for trespassing. This will be enforced.

WARREN F. COOK, *Executive Director*

How Old Are Your Teeth?

By HAROLD KENT, D.M.D.

Teeth are not always old in terms of service. A man advanced in years may not have old teeth and, conversely, not all young people have young teeth. Dental disability seems to have no respect for age or sex.

Few persons escape dental trouble. Many encounter it in childhood, cope with it through middle life, and have artificial teeth before fifty.

Fear of being hurt is probably the most frequent cause of dental neglect. An unfortunate experience in childhood may keep a person away from the dentist for years and all kinds of trouble may ensue. The treatment of diseased teeth varies greatly with dentists, with ages and with the general health of the patients. An old man of 80 may have dead and infected teeth, but his general health may be such that weeks of treatment needed to relieve his oral cavity of possible dental foci would be inadvisable. A young girl of 20 may present the same dental picture but for the sake of future years and good health everything must be done to procure a healthy mouth.

The teeth have one very unfortunate characteristic. They do not replace themselves. Other body parts, in some measure, are renewed and serviced by natural means. Not so the teeth.

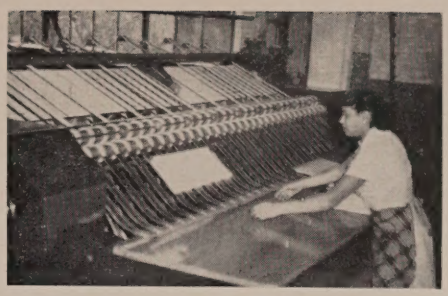
Once lost, the natural teeth are gone forever. While dentistry can point with just pride to its achievements in the field of restoration, it is a rash dentist, indeed, who considers his efforts as more than an unsatisfactory work. This makes vital all wise efforts to keep teeth from growing old too fast. The dentist can't do this job alone. The owner of the teeth can't do it all himself, although conscientious effort helps a lot. It takes dentist and patient, and frequently a lot of both.

New England Hospital Assembly

The annual meeting of the New England Hospital Assembly was held this year at the Staler Hotel, March 23-25, and two members of the Deaconess occupied key spots on the agenda.

Mr. Chamberlin was one of the panel speakers on Tuesday afternoon where a departmental meeting on laundry problems was simulated. Miss Adams was scheduled also as a panel speaker on the special session devoted to Personnel, but, owing to her mother's sudden illness, she was unable to attend.

Apart from the formal sessions, the Assembly had a host of technical and commercial exhibits which were unusually well displayed. Someone remarked that it was as if the A.H.A.'s magazine, *Hospitals,* had suddenly come to life.



NEW LAUNDRY EQUIPMENT

The latest model flat-work ironer — Super Sylon — manufactured by the American Laundry Machine Company, has just been installed in the Deaconess Laundry. Capable of ironing and folding 700 pounds of laundry an hour, this super ironer is the first of its type to be installed in New England. So delicately is the mechanism adjusted that even wet tissue paper can be handled without tearing. It is estimated that the saving to the Hospital by the elimination of hand folding and decreased wear and tear on linen will more than pay for its installation in three years' time.

BOWLING LEAGUE

Competition is keen between the ten teams of the New England Deaconess Hospital Bowling League, which meets every Tuesday evening at the Boylston Bowladrome. Only four weeks remain before the wind-up of the 1949-50 season; the standing of the teams at the end of the evening on April 11 was as follows:

Team	*Captain*	*Points*
9	Edna Whittemore	69
4	Walter Emery	65
2	Florence Brown	65
8	Rita Dennehy	60
6	Joseph Chamberlin	59
1	Dr. Warren F. Cook	54
5	Ann Atwood	52
10	Mary Parker	52
7	Ruth Churchill	52
3	Donald Sabine	48

The highest single string without handicap to date was chalked up by Joe Chamberlin at 142, while Peggy Kerrigan, Team 1 holds top score for women: 122.

Arrangements are being made for the Annual Bowling Banquet to be held at the Latin Quater the latter part of May.

Public Health Notes

CANCER DETECTION

The Cancer Detection Clinic in Palmer, a part of the Out-Patient Department, continues to function actively and it is planned to keep it open until early summer. Not a few of the personnel in our own hospital have expressed interest in the Clinic and have admitted practically complete ignorance about its purpose and its workings. Let us give you a brief summary to cover these points.

The Clinic is open to all who wish to have a complete physical examination and routine laboratory tests which are directed toward the diagnosis of cancer. These, combined with a careful history, will cast light on any unusual condition and indicate any further tests which may prove or disprove the presence of cancer in areas of the body where this disease most commonly occurs.

Anyone with a definite complaint or known abnormal condition should consult his own doctor, or, if there is a suspicion of tumor, he may be seen at the general Tumor Clinics at the Palmer. The Cancer Detection Clinic here has as its purpose the discovery of malignant conditions of which the patient is not at all aware and which cause no symptoms in their early stages.

Since the start of this Clinic, several early malignant tumors have been found in entirely unsuspecting people, and other benign conditions have been discovered before serious complications have developed. The doctors in the Cancer Detection Clinic do not give treatment in the Clinic but refer patients back to their own doctors. If the patient has no physician of his own, the Social Service Department suggests one or several.

However, the chief value of such a screening center as this lies in the careful evaluation of each patient with regard to his more recent history especially his physical examination, and his laboratory tests, including blood counts, urine examination, and chest x-ray. Outstanding abnormalities are picked up, and less noticeable changes may excite suspicion of a serious hidden tumor. More detailed examination is then advised.

The Cancer Detection Clinic is a diagnostic clinic. Since the greatest hope of curing cancer lies in *early* diagnosis and treatment, clinics of this type serve a useful purpose. Individuals over the age of forty, and particularly those with a family history of cancer, may avail themselves of the opportunity to be examined by experienced physicians and thus be given a better chance to be cured of an unsuspected malignant tumor.

Employees of the hospital may be examined in the Clinic at a reduced fee.

Material for the above supplied by:
CARROLL C. MILLER, M. D.

News of the Nursing Departments

GRADUATION ANNOUNCEMENTS

Before the next issue of THE PULSE, Graduation and many of its related activities will be a thing of the past. Here are the important dates:

MAY 12 — Dance, Dorothy Quincy Suite, Kenmore Hotel. Reeves Orchestra.

MAY 16 — GRADUATION — Alumni Auditorium, Northeastern University. Speakers: J. Wendell Yeo, Professor, B. U. School of Education. Charge to the Class: Dr. Elliot P. Joslin.

MAY 18 — Banquet for the Class and Faculty. Hotel Beaconsfield.

MAY 19 — Guests of Alumnae at Deaconess "Pops" Night.

MAY 21 — BACCALAUREATE — St. Mark's Church, Brookline, Mass. Preacher: Bishop John Wesley Lord,

On April 3rd, a new class of Hospital Aides began a six-week period of training and instruction under the supervision of Mrs. Frances Snyder. There are eight in this group, one of whom has been employed as a "yellow girl" for about a year.

* * *

Misses Patricia Dunbar and Thelma Tungland have a pleasing plan in view. Beginning April 10th they are making a tour of the South and Southwestern states by car, to terminate when they find the "right spot." Happy landings!

* * *

Miss Milly Munn, an Assistant Night Supervisor, is currently found on Baker 5, Charge Nurse on days.

FUTURE EVENTS

A tea will be given on Tuesday afternoon, May 2, in Harris Hall by the student body for the Friends of the Deaconess to give students an opportunity to meet the members of this group which each year provides Scholarship Funds for deserving students. An invitation is extended to all hospital personnel.

* * *

On Friday evening, April 21st, there will be another of the informal dances sponsored by the Student Government. Music will be furnished from a large collection of the latest popular recordings. These dances, which are organized entirely by the students, are usually held in the Cafeteria at Harris Hall and refreshments are served.

* * *

Several of our younger graduates have found new locations for the coming summer months. Miss Jean Waldron, '49 Jr., will be at the U. S. Naval Hospital, Newport, Rhode Island. Miss Edna Robinson, '49 Jr., will be in the nursery of the Cape Cod Hospital after May 1st. Miss May Ekstrand, '49 Jr., will be at a summer camp.

* * *

A Candlelight Communion Service was held in Harris Hall on April 6th. The service was very inspirational. It was attended by almost one hundred students. These students are deeply appreciative of the effort and time which Rev. Samuelson gave to make the service a genuinely spiritual experience.

SNOW REMOVAL

Special commendation is due to Mike Aliki, Frank Carey, Pat Sullivan, and Arnold Thompkins, members of the Housekeeping Department for the efficient manner in which they handled snow removal this winter.

DR. WARREN RECEIVES CITATION

At a luncheon on April 3 held at the Mason Memorial, Dr. Shields Warren received a special citation from the Massachusetts Division of the American Cancer Society for his "important contributions to the control of cancer." The occasion marked the opening in this state of the annual drive for funds which is conducted throughout the country by the American Cancer Society. Major General William J. "Wild Bill" Donovan was the principal speaker.

CANCER DRIVE 1950

April is the month in which the American Cancer Society makes its annual appeal for funds. Although the Hospital has made no formal arrangements for a collection, it is felt that many employees will wish to contribute to this useful cause. Accordingly, you are requested to present your gifts directly to your Department Heads, who will turn them over to the Public Relations Department for forwarding to the Campaign Headquarters. The deadline is April 30th.

DEPARTMENTAL NOTES

Weddings

Miss Janice Marshall, '45 Jr., to Mr. Charles Harris Cleveland at the Hadwen Park Church, Worcester, on March 5.

Miss Lillian Korpi, '48 Jr., to Mr. Stewart George Chapin at White River Junction, Vermont, on April 2.

Blood Bank

Miss Elizabeth Foerster, a graduate of Boston University, and formerly of the Jordan Hospital in Plymouth, joined the Blood Bank staff on March 23.

Chemical Laboratory

Mrs. Dorothy Thomas has returned as a part time technician after an absence of almost four years during which time she accompanied her husband, an M.D., on assignments to Texas, Washington, and Germany.

Isabel Sentener is recovering from injuries received in an automobile accident on Easter Sunday.

Housekeeping

A meeting of the New England Housekeepers Association was held here recently with round table discussions on housekeeping problems. Miss Ellen Adams of the Personnel Office, assisted by Miss Callie Taloumis of the Boston Lying-in Hospital, and Mrs. Norman C. Dahl, formerly Personnel Director of the Peter Bent Brigham Hospital, presented a skit "Can Your Job Be Easier?" Tea was served later at the Riverway House.

Operating Room

Mrs. Jean Hurley of the Deaconess Operating Room is well on the road to recovery after a recent appendectomy.

Pathology

In March, a "first of its kind" textbook, *Introduction to Neuropathology*, was published by McGraw Hill, New York. Its co-authors, Dr. Samuel P. Hicks and Dr. Shields Warren, have already received many favorable comments. We wish to add our word of congratulation and to express our pride that the New England Deaconess Hospital is given recognition in the titles of the authors.

Social Service

An informal supper party was held on April 5 at the home of Mrs. Gertrude Jameson in Saugus in honor of Mary Kelly who has left to join the staff of the Harvard School of Public Health.

Gladys Harrison has returned from a month's vacation spent in various spots in Florida. She traveled by plane and reports that the high speed of the Constellations made all other air travel seem "pokey."